

Legacy's Story and History

Legacy's story is nothing short of miraculous - from unlikely beginnings to the current day. It's miraculous not because we are special, but because Jesus in his kindness has chosen broken and sinful people like us to be a meaningful chapter in his plan to supernaturally build his church family here on Earth and give hope to the world through the power of the gospel.

We are prime evidence that God's unstoppable gospel grace for sinners truly does transform us from the inside out. Throughout the Legacy family are individual stories of the gospel giving new life and purpose to spiritually dead people. We are full of needy, broken, and rebellious people, yet in Christ are his Royal Children, Servants, and Missionaries. We are free. Finally free!

God has called us to be a church who gives hope to every last person in Knoxville - particularly those who are broken and burnt out from dead religion. As God continues Legacy's story, chapter by chapter, we would be honored to have you join us on this journey.

2009: God brings the core planting team fresh vision for what it could look like to plant a church that is centered on the gospel of grace and excited about the city. The team's desire is to do this in a college town in a region where the "nones" and "dones" are a growing demographic.

The core team moves to Knoxville and begins meeting with all kinds of people in bars and other "smoking sections" in Knoxville while dreaming and rallying a core team to start a gospel-centered church who loves Knoxville.

Legacy also is assessed and admitted this year into Acts29, a global church planting network. Legacy also partners this year with the Gospel Coalition and IX Marks, groups that strive towards both church reform and culture transformation.

2010: The core team, comprised of the two families making initial landfall, meet in a home as the first missional community of Legacy Church. Our first two missions are at a local bar and a local laundromat postured to serve the poor, student, and immigrant population of Knoxville.

2011: After continual growth in the living room, Legacy launches and holds its first public worship service at Cedar Bluff Middle School. God continues growing us in numbers and depth, while starting the process of moving us closer to downtown Knoxville and UT. We also grow this year to add a couple more missional communities.

2013-14: God moves Legacy to West High School, as he uses us to plant a college ministry on UT's campus. Legacy's missional communities (COMs: Communities on Mission) are multiplying around Knoxville and campus and are developing depth.

This year, Legacy also launches its Church Planter and Pastoral Residency, comprised of six men hopeful to either lead a church plant or serve as an elder in one.

2015: God brings together a beautiful partnership between Legacy Church and Campus Outreach. God's goodness in fulfilling our vision to reach college campuses around the region is vividly seen. Campus Outreach is one of the most powerful tools that God is using on college campuses throughout the world.

This year we add a few more missional communities and expand our reach west and southward. God continually grows Legacy in West High School as we begin to look for a more permanent facility to be leveraged for the good of the community around it.

2016: Legacy sends its first two church planting candidates through the Acts29 assessment as we look forward to planting in the future. This year we celebrate our 5th birthday, a milestone less than 15% of church plants see.

This is also the year Campus Outreach replaces our initial campus presence in their first official semester, focusing on incoming freshman and the fraternities and sororities.

2017: We plant our first church, Legacy Farragut, in the western edge of Knox County. This is our first plant, sending a healthy team with a love for the suburbs of Knoxville.

Legacy continues to grow and search for a future home within what we have grown to call “Central City” a 5K from the UT campus in all directions comprising just over 20 square miles.

Dear Knoxville...

When we launched our church from the living room, the first thing we did was scribe a letter to the city we moved here to reach. I think it's fitting to place it here since we wrote it to you.

Dear Knoxville,

We thought it important to write you a letter - really a letter of commitment that you can use to remind us if we begin to miss the mark of why we began Legacy Church. There's probably no better people to keep us honest than the ones we promise to love and serve. Please hear them as our heart for you and this city.

We commit to showing you Jesus Christ to the best of our abilities. We commit that Legacy Church belongs to Jesus, not us.

We commit to telling you the truth about what Jesus says, even if it is hard and means some of you will never return. We commit to telling his story, not just ours, because it is more important and honestly, ours is boring without him in the center.

We commit to spending our money and time serving the parts of Knoxville and people of Knoxville that need Jesus' rescue.

We commit to gathering around a King, not a building or a service.

We commit to confronting the sin that tears you and your family apart, sometimes unbeknownst to you or your family.

We commit to taking chances and attempting things only possible with God's hand. We commit to making Jesus more famous than our church.

We commit to loving you, but declaring war on the things drawing you away from Jesus. We commit to doing our best to love and serve you.

We will all see our Maker and King soon. He will restore the whole world to the way it's supposed to be. He will make

all things new, wiping away all tears, as we worship him together in his presence forever. This gives us great hope, as we sacrifice it all for your good and his glory. We love you Knoxville, but only because almighty God loved you first.

Thank you for hearing our heart.

Sincerely, The leadership of Legacy Church